

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

- a. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ralph E. Locher (Registration No. 41, 947) on December 1, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please replace the abstract with the following:

Abstract of the Disclosure:

A honeycomb body is formed of alternating layers that are smooth and partially structured. The layers form cavities that allow a fluid to flow in an axial flow direction. The structured layers have structural extremities in contact with smooth neighboring layers and inverted sections in the vicinity of their structural extremities. The sections protrude into the cavities and have a form approximately inverse of the structural extremities in a cross-section through the honeycomb body that runs perpendicularly to the flow direction in such a way that breaks are formed in the structural extremities. Counter-structures are configured in the vicinity of the inverted sections and/or structural extremities in the smooth layers. The structures engage with the structural extremities and/or inverted section. In the honeycomb body, relative displacements of

the two layers in the flow direction are prevented by the co-operation of the inverted sections and the counter-structures.

b. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ralph E. Locher (Registration No. 41, 947) on February 1, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim ~~42~~ 43 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim 26, wherein at least some of said counter-structures are formed in said at least partially structured layers.

Claim ~~43~~ 44 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim 24, wherein a quotient of:

A sum of a height of said inverted sections and a height of said counter-structures; and

A radial distance between two walls of said cavities;

Is less than 1.

Claim ~~44~~ 45 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim 24, wherein at least some of said layers are metallic layers.

Claim ~~45~~ 46 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim ~~44~~ 45, wherein at least some of said metallic layers are sheet-metal layers.

Claim ~~46~~ 47 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim ~~45~~ 46, wherein said sheet-metal layers have a thickness of less than 60 μm .

Claim ~~47~~ 48 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim ~~45~~ 46, wherein said sheet-metal layers have a thickness of less than 40 μm .

Claim ~~48~~ 49 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim ~~45~~ 46, wherein said sheet-metal layers have a thickness of less than 25 μm .

Claim ~~49~~ 50 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim ~~44~~ 45, wherein at least some of said metallic layers are formed to at least partially allow a fluid to flow therethrough.

Claim ~~50~~ 51 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim ~~49~~ 50, wherein at least some of said metallic layers are formed from a metallic fiber material.

Claim ~~51~~ 52 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim ~~50~~ 51, wherein said fiber material is a sintered metallic fiber material.

Claim ~~52~~ 53 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim 24, wherein at least some of said layers are formed of a composite material.

Claim ~~53~~ 54 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim 24, wherein said composite material consists essentially of ceramic and metallic fibers.

Claim ~~54~~ 55 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim 24 configured as a catalyst support or a filter.

Claim ~~55~~ 56 (currently amended). The honeycomb body according to claim 24 configured for integration into an exhaust system of a motor vehicle.

2. Claims 24 – 56 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant application claims "counter-structures formed in said substantially smooth layers in a region of at least one of said inverted sections and said structural extremities and engaging with the least one of said structural extremities and said inverted section". These limitations are not obvious over the prior art. Maus et al. (US Patent No. 5,045,403) disclose inverted sections that are not in contact with the smooth layers. However, Maus et al. are silent in regard to counter-structures formed in the smooth layers engaging with the inverted sections. Therefore, based on the nearest

prior art, it would not have been obvious to form counter-structures engaging the inverted sections.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NICOLE T. GUGLIOTTA whose telephone number is (571)270-1552. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David R. Sample can be reached on 571-272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David R. Sample/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/NICOLE T GUGLIOTTA/
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